

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 031771

EXDIS MIL ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, CB, VS

SUBJECT: CODEL VISIT TO VIET-NAM AND CAMBODIA

CINCPAC HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOR AMBASSADOR DEAN AND CHARGE LEHMANN

SAIGON PLEASE PASS TO ADMIRAL GAYLER

1. PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO CONGRESS TO SEND SELECT GROUP TO BOTH CAMBODIA AND VIET-NAM, FOR FIRST HAND LOOK AT SITUATION IN CONNECTION WITH ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL AID AND RELATED LEGISLATION, HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AND TRIP BEGINNING NOW TO TAKE SHAPE. FINAL LIST OF THOSE WHO WILL MAKE TRIP NOT YET AVAILABLE, ALTHOUGH A DOZEN SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN HAVE AS OF TODAY AGREED TO PARTICIPATE. WE BELIEVE FINAL LIST MAY TOTAL APPROXIMATELY 20, NOT INCLUDING STAFFERS AND DEPARTMENT STAFF. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB WILL ESCORT GROUP WHICH WILL TRAVEL BY SAM FROM WASHINGTON TO SAIGON. DOD WILL ALSO BE REPRESENTED.

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CINCPAC ADMIRAL GAYLER WILL JOIN GROUP IN HONOLULU. THIS

PRELIMINARY MESSAGE IS DESIGNED TO GIVE YOU SOME FORE-
WARNING OF WHAT TO EXPECT SO THAT PLANS CAN BE MADE FINAL
ON SHORT NOTICE.

2. SCHEDULE HAS NOT YET BEEN SET, BUT DEPARTURE FROM
WASHINGTON WILL BE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20. COMMISSION WILL
RECEIVE BRIEFING IN CINCPAC, AND GO ON TO SAIGON, ARRIVING
ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 22. A CONGRESSIONAL STAFF GROUP IS
EXPECTED TO PRECEDE COMMISSION BY SEVERAL DAYS. COM-
POSITION OF STAFF GROUP AND TRAVEL DATES NOT YET ESTAB-
LISHED.

3. WE ANTICIPATE GROUP WILL SPEND APPROXIMATELY THREE
DAYS IN SAIGON. TRAVEL FROM SAIGON TO PHNOM PENH AND
RETURN TO SAIGON SHOULD, WE BELIEVE, BE ACCOMPLISHED IN
ONE DAY, WITH NO REPEAT NO OVERNIGHT IN PHNOM PENH. WE
TENTATIVELY SUGGEST FEBRUARY 26 FOR PHNOM PENH VISIT.

4. FOR PHNOM PENH. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON
WHETHER NINE HOURS ON THE GROUND WOULD PROVIDE SUFFICIENT
OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSION TO OBTAIN UNDERSTANDING OF
CAMBODIAN REQUIREMENTS. WHILE SCHEDULING IN-COUNTRY
WILL BE UP TO YOU AND GKR, WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE MOST
USEFUL IF GROUP IS DIVIDED AT VARIOUS POINTS OF SCHEDULE
INTO SUB-GROUPS, TO PERMIT OBSERVATION OF GREATER VARIETY
OF LOCAL ACTIVITIES. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER ENTIRE GROUP
WILL CHOOSE TO VISIT PHNOM PENH, BUT WILL ADVISE YOU WHEN
WE CAN PIN THAT DOWN. CAN YOU HANDLE A GROUP AS LARGE AS
PROPOSED BELOW?

5. FOR SAIGON. AS IN CASE OF PHNOM PENH, IN-COUNTRY
PROGRAMMING FOR GROUP WILL BE LEFT TO MISSION AND GVN.
ADVANCE STAFFDEL MAY HAVE SOME SUGGESTIONS IN THIS REGARD.

6. FOR BOTH SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH. REQUEST YOU ADVISE
HOST GOVERNMENTS IMMEDIATELY OF DELEGATION, ITS PURPOSES,
AND GENERAL MAGNITUDE OF GROUP WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED,
I.E., ABOUT 30-35, INCLUDING CODEL STAFFERS. YOU SHOULD
EMPHASIZE THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL DELEGATION HAVE FULLEST
AND FRANKEST EXPOSURE POSSIBLE TO SITUATIONS IN THE TWO
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COUNTRIES, AND THAT MEMBERS BE PERMITTED TO GO WHEREVER
THEY WANT AND SEE WHOMEVER THEY WISH TO SEE, WITHIN
LIMITS OF SECURITY.

7. FOR CINCPAC. DURING HONOLULU STOPOVER EN ROUTE TO
SEA, THOROUGH BRIEFING ON MILITARY SITUATION IS REQUESTED.
WILL ALSO REQUIRE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING ACCOMMODA-
TIONS AND GROUND TRANSPORT.

8. FOR ALL ADDRESSEES: WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AS
ADDITIONAL DETAILS DEVELOP, INCLUDING ITINERARY, MEMBERS
OF PARTY, ETC. VISAS WILL BE OBTAINED IN WASHINGTON. INGERSOLL

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